



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

SEP 24 2002

CECW-ON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, CHIEFS,
OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Revised Recreation Use Fee Policy

1. Revised recreation use fee policy and guidance has been published in ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 9 and EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 9. This revised policy and guidance were developed with the assistance of a field task force and with significant input from all levels of the Natural Resources Management community in the Corps.
2. The revised policy updates, clarifies and expands previous recreation use fee policy to reflect current conditions in the Corps program and to meet future needs. It is a comprehensive revision that incorporates new policy regarding day use fees, special activity permits and fees for certain services. Day use fees and minimum camping fees are increased to reflect inflation. Please review the new policy carefully to assure appropriate and thorough implementation.
3. One of the policy changes requires annual fee schedules to be approved at the MSC level, rather than at the district level, with MSC review, as the prior policy required. This change is prompted by a concern with the conduct of adequate and appropriate comparability studies to establish the annual fee schedule. It is very important that camping fees and other use fees charged by the Corps be comparable with those charged by other providers of similar facilities services in the local area. It is not appropriate for the Corps to charge lower fees for similar opportunities, because this results in unfair competition with private entities and other providers. Please review 2003 recreation use fee schedules closely and, if warranted, raise fees accordingly.
4. The revised policy will be implemented on 1 January 2003. A communications strategy is under development, which will articulate a consistent message for Corps personnel to use in explaining the fee changes to customers, the media and the general public. The strategy will also contain the text and schedule for press releases about the fee increases, as well as a brochure that users may download, modify to meet local needs, print, and distribute to recreation visitors. The strategy will be posted on the Natural Resources Management Gateway at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/usefees/policy.html> when complete.
5. My point of contact for the recreation use fee program is Judy Rice, 202-761-4751.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas F. Caver, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

THOMAS F. CAVER, JR., P.E.
Deputy Director of Civil Works